

Hartford

Courant

VOLUME CLXXXI NUMBER 316

COURANT.COM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017

RUNNING FOR OFFICE

More Women Stepping Up Into Politics

'We Want To Have An Impact' In State And Nation

By **JESSE LEAVENWORTH** and **DANIELA ALTIMARI**
jleavenworth@courant.com

MANCHESTER — Hearing that women, for the first time, form the majority on the Manchester Board of Directors, Mary Ann Handley, 81, said she drifted back to her early years in local politics.

"I thought, 'Wouldn't it have been wonderful if there were more of us,'" the former Democratic town director and state senator said.

Manchester's historic election Tuesday reflects a nationwide surge in women seeking local, state and national offices.

Historic firsts for women and minorities on Tuesday included Seattle's first female mayor in almost a century and the first black woman to win the mayor's office in Charlotte, N.C.

In Manchester, the newly-elected directors board includes the first Hispanic and the first African American, both women. In Greenwich, women motivated by anti-Trump animus won about half the seats on the 230-member Representative Town Meeting, up from about a third.

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu will be sworn in as mayor of Bristol on Monday night, becoming the city's first female mayor. Shari Cantor is expected to retain the mayor's seat in West Hartford as the top vote-getter in last Tuesday's election. Erin E. Stewart

WOMEN, A6

5 YEARS LATER

Sandy Hook Report Silence

Status Of Police 'After-Action' Study A Mystery

By **DAVE ALTIMARI**
daltimari@courant.com

Within 10 months of the shooting at a San Bernardino, Calif., office that killed 14 people, officials released a 162-page report analyzing the police response. About 18 months after the Boston Marathon bombing, a similar 130-page "after-action report" was made public.

But nearly five years since the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in which 26 children and educators were killed, Connecticut state police have not released a report critiquing their response.

And the status of the report has become a mystery.

State police officials said this past week that the document is not finished, blaming, among other things, staff cuts. But multiple state police sources said that the report has been complete for more than a year and that officials are reluctant to release it, in part,



MICHAEL MCANDREWS | SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

HONOR AND RESPECT

MIKE ROGALSKI, left, and Jerry Augustine, both Vietnam veterans, salute after laying a wreath during Veterans Day ceremonies at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown on Saturday afternoon. More than 100 people attended the event. Rogalski and Augustine live in Middletown.

ANTHEM-HARTFORD HEALTHCARE DISPUTE

Patients Caught In The Middle

People Ration Treatment, Postpone Care

By **RUSSELL BLAIR** and **REBECCA LURYE**
rblair@courant.com

Across Connecticut, patients say they're getting caught up in the ongoing contract standoff between Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield and Hartford HealthCare, many of them postponing treatments or being hit with unexpected bills.

As the corporate financial dispute continues into its second month, most people say they're scrambling to find new doctors or signing up for non-Anthem health insurance plans during open enrollment. But those who need health insurance the most, patients with frequent or chronic health issues, are having a harder time. They've had to put off much-needed surgeries and ration pills and doctor's visits, and also risk higher costs to see the now-out-of-network doctors they trust.

"There are so many people that are being put in a really precarious position because they can't go to

LAUREN SCHNEIDERMAN | LSCHNEIDERMAN@COURANT.COM

HEATHER FESTA, 37, of Norwich, said she and her son are being treated at a hospital for her immune deficiency and his chronic asthma. They haven't been denied care or coverage yet, but she fears it will happen.

PATIENTS, A6

RUSSIAN MEDDLING?

Putin: We Didn't Do It. Trump: I Believe Him

Intelligence Agencies Insist Evidence Is Clear

By **KAREN DEYOUNG, ASHLEY PARKER** and **DAVID NAKAMURA**
Washington Post

President Donald Trump said that President Vladimir Putin had assured him again Saturday that Russia did not interfere in the 2016 presidential campaign, and indicated that he believed Putin's sincerity, drawing immediate criticism from lawmakers and former intelligence officials responsible who assessed that the meddling took place.

"I asked him again," Trump said after what he described as several brief, informal chats with Putin in Danang, Vietnam, where they were attending a regional conference. "You can only ask so many times. ... He said he absolutely did not meddle in our election. He did not do what they are saying he did."

"I really believe that when he tells me that, he means it. ... I think he's very insulted, if you

PUTIN, A8

A TEXAS TOWN MOURNS

They were part of a small, close community in Texas, not far from San Antonio. They were retirees, working people — and children. Above is a memorial to Haley Krueger, who was 16 when she was shot and killed at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs. She was one of 26 victims.

A look at their stories is on **Pages A12-13**



Farmland Funding

The state has put millions into preserving farmland over the past four decades, but that dedicated funding is beginning to dry up — both at the state and federal level.

SundayCT, Page B1

Life With Loss

Christy Kovel has been without her soul mate and life partner, Tracy, since last August. "It was the longest year of my life," she says.

Insight, Page C1

UConn Women Open Today

When the Huskies take on Stanford today in Columbus, Ohio, they will be where many expect them to return in five months: the site of the 2018 Final Four. **Sports, Page E1**

\$4.00 Copyright 2017 The Hartford Courant Co.

6 04209 004007 7 1112

DONATE YOUR CAR

Wheels For Wishes Benefiting

Make-A-Wish® Connecticut

- *Free Vehicle Pickup ANYWHERE
- *We Accept All Vehicles Running or Not
- *We Also Accept Boats, Motorcycles & RVs
- *Fully Tax Deductible

WheelsForWishes.org **Call: (860) 249-8967**

* Wheels For Wishes is a DBA of Car Donation Foundation.